



# **LCA Parent & Spectator Code of Conduct 2024-2025**

*Colossians 3:23*

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord  
and not for human masters.”*

Dear LCA Parent,

Welcome to a new year in LCA Athletics! We are excited to partner with you to help train up our student-athletes in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). We offer an education-based athletic program, which means that everything we do on and off the field, is seen through the lens of our LCA mission.

Through participation in co-curricular athletics programs, students strive to become better students, athletes, leaders, but most importantly, better followers of Jesus. Our programs provide special opportunities to demonstrate Christian values, character, and commitment. Winning is a great goal, but a terrible purpose. Christ calls us to show the world something different in everything we do for His purpose.

Participation in the Lexington Christian Academy Athletics Program is a privilege, not a right. All student-athletes and parents who choose to participate, voluntarily choose to embrace hard work, self-discipline and selflessness to pursue team goals. As a parent of a student-athlete you assume responsibility for your actions. You are representing the school, your family, the team and most importantly, God.

My prayer is that we seek to honor and glorify Him as we continue to grow and strive for excellence in all we do. We are committed to transformational experiences in the lives of our coaches and our student-athletes. We will keep our mission and vision in the forefront of what we do and why we do it. We will use our core values to guide us. This is a high standard, but it is who we are called to be and what we should be joyful about doing. Please help us make LCA “different” so that others may find Christ through their interactions with us.

In Christ,

*Kirby Willoughby*

Director of Athletics

## **BIBLICAL BASIS FOR COMPETITION**

We believe that it is in keeping with God's word to compete with the desire to excel. This includes a desire to win contests. "Whatever you do, do it with all of your might, as if done for the Lord...it is Jesus Christ you are serving in everything." (Colossians 3:23-24) Competing with this desire, however, is only a part of a greater purpose. We are here to train up our athletes in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). Our greater purpose is moving our student-athletes toward Christ-likeness, and thus shining the light of Jesus to all who witness this process. Competition is in keeping with God's word. How we handle competition, however, will be how we show others LCA is different.

On the court/field and off, LCA student-athletes, coaches, parents and administrators are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this process. Though individuals will fall short of this goal at times, we should all hold each other accountable in love and grace. Parents, coaches and administrators should lead the way and set the example for our young people.

We will coach from a biblical perspective and strive to be a true reflection of Jesus Christ to our athletes. We will promote honesty, integrity, humility, loyalty, unity and encouraging total character development of our athletes. These traits are foundational in building a program of TEAMS. This will include all our coaches promoting and encouraging the success of all other programs, emphasizing the need to share multi-sport athletes and to collaborate fruitfully with students, parents and staff to balance our students' investment in academics and the arts.

We will show good sportsmanship; respecting others at all times and under every circumstance. This includes behavior towards coaches, teammates, officials, opposing coaches, opposing players, and fans. We expect our coaches and athletes to demonstrate respect toward teachers and parents at all times. We will create a winning environment by displaying a positive attitude and providing daily encouragement to those around us. Our student athletes will respond better when they know we genuinely love and care for them.

We will foster a commitment to excellence. Success in athletics is the result of coaches and players going the extra mile. Teams who pay the price in the off-season win championships. We must communicate great expectations, provide great instruction, emphasize great fundamentals, and demand great effort, in the context of strong relationship. Most importantly, according to God's word if we want to be great, we must model great servanthood to our teams.

## **MISSION STATEMENT AND PHILOSOPHY**

The mission of Lexington Christian Academy is to equip and nurture students to fulfill God's calling on their lives through Christ-centered education.

The purpose and mission of the Athletic Department is to fulfill the mission of Lexington Christian Academy through competition in interscholastic sports- implementing biblical principles throughout our co-curricular activities.

### **LCA ATHLETICS:**

**MISSION:** LCA ATHLETICS EXISTS TO PROVIDE COACHES AND STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO GLORIFY CHRIST WITH THE TALENTS AND ABILITIES GOD HAS GIVEN THEM.

**VISION:** TO CREATE AND SUSTAIN A CHRIST-CENTERED CULTURE THAT PRODUCES TRANSFORMATIONAL ATHLETIC AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR OUR STUDENTS.

### **CORE VALUES:**

- **CHARACTER-** We have to be people with right hearts- in tune with the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Lord requires us act justly, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). We are called to represent Christ in all we do.
- **INTEGRITY-** We are to have knowledge of the rules and function within those boundaries. God defines it biblically and commands us to aim at what is honorable in the sight of God and man (2 Corinthians 8:21). We are to do the right thing, the right way, for the right reasons.
- **DISCIPLINE-** We are called to a life of discipline. Discipline in our faith walk to pursue knowledge of Christ through the Word as well as discipline in sport to maximize the athletic abilities of our young people. We know that in the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it (Hebrews 12:11). We will commit to the process and do what we want to do the way we should do it.
- **STEWARDSHIP-** Our culture is fast becoming one of takers-not givers. The Bible tells us "to whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48). We will work to develop sacrificial leaders- sacrificing time and talents- two things every person possesses. We will not waste our gifts.
- **COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE-** Winning with humility and honor and understanding defeat in honor and grace will matter in the journey. The toughness and grit of the heart to work through both is essential and will be taught. Administration, coaches and parents will work together to compete in the arena but also compete for the hearts of our young people. We will work heartily as for the Lord and not for men (Colossians 3:23).

## **PLAYER, PARENT, AND SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS**

**SPORTSMANSHIP-** Sportsmanship is defined as fair and generous behavior or treatment of others. The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior and integrity must permeate every aspect of interscholastic athletics in our school community. The ethics of fair play must be present in both perception and practice. The fields of interscholastic athletic competition have been firmly established as training grounds for the promotion of good citizenship and high behavioral standards. Further, student athletes must be aware of the fact that the behaviors and attitudes of others. The demonstration of sportsmanship by athletes, coaches and fans is an expectation that is an integral part of LCA.

The fundamentals of sportsmanship:

- Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the contest.
- Exercise appropriate behavior at all times.
- Recognize and appreciate skill and performance regardless of affiliation.
- Exhibit respect for the contest officials.
- Respect opponents at all times.

**STUDENT CONDUCT/EXPECTATIONS:** As members of athletic teams, athletes are high-profile representatives of LCA. Students are expected to act in an appropriate manner. The following behaviors are inappropriate and will not be tolerated:

- Fighting
- Profanity
- Use of/being under the influence of alcohol, tobacco or drugs
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Rude or disrespectful behavior on and off the field/court
- Taunting opponents or officials
- Destruction of property
- Obscene gestures
- Derogatory or degrading comments

**Student-athletes are encouraged to:**

- Play the game for fun
- Be gracious when you win and graceful when you lose
- Respect and abide by the rules of the game
- Put the team ahead of yourself in every situation
- Accept decisions made by those in authority
- Demonstrate respect to your opponents, coaches and teammates
- Be accountable for your own actions
- Develop a teachable spirit that allows you to take correction as a compliment
- Accept and embrace the discipline involved in athletics because it benefits the team (and ultimately you)

- Develop the feeling of pride based upon “shared joy” of the team, and do not have a pride that emanates from arrogance or sense of entitlement
- Be an athlete of character

#### **Unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct:**

- Everyone involved with athletic contests should be committed to the demonstration of good sportsmanship and Christian behavior. It is vital that our coaches, fans and participants remember that Christian character should be represented at the cost of any positive results in a competition. The reflection of the Christian testimony outweighs the outcome of any contest.
- Players will be expected to shake hands with opposing players after the game, unless in the judgement of the coach, it would be counterproductive. It is a coach’s responsibility to control players before, during and after games. LCA expects its participants and fans to be involved in cheering for their team, not against the opponents. Fans can be enthusiastic but should refrain from derogatory remarks against the opposing team or game officials.
- Any act of unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct will be dealt with swiftly. If the act occurs during an athletic contest, the student will be removed from the contest by the head coach.
- A student who strikes, curses or threatens an official or coach during a game, or at any other time, because of resentment over occurrences or decisions, or who fails to maintain a standard of conduct satisfactory to the KHSAA and/or the coaches and administration, will be ineligible for a period of up to six weeks and must pay the fine if assessed, by the KHSAA to the school.
- A student who is ejected from a contest for a flagrant foul or unsportsmanlike conduct will be ineligible to participate in any contest per the regulations set forth by the KHSAA, and must pay the fine, if assessed, by the KHSAA.
- All students who act in an unsportsmanlike manner, resulting in a letter/penalty, will be required to meet with the Director of Athletics before resuming athletic participation and may face school disciplinary action.

#### **Dismissal Offenses:**

- The following is an overview of the philosophy of the LCA Athletic Department on dismissal from a team- “Let no man despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)
  - This should be a last resort- The rationale: we cannot reach or teach students if they are not present. For the coach to decide to dismiss a student-athlete, the coach should feel that keeping the athlete would destroy the team or his/her ability to make progress with the team. The coach’s letter to the athlete and parents should cover these behaviors:
  - Lying, cheating, stealing or aiding another to do so
  - Drinking alcohol or smoking anything
  - Any involvement in illicit drugs
  - Behavior that causes the coach to consider the athlete an undermining influence

- The coach will not summarily dismiss a student in violation. The Director of Athletics will be given detailed information regarding the incident that includes possible dismissal from the team. It could be that the offense, on the surface, does not seem to rise to the level of dismissal, but the coach has cumulative information regarding the student/athlete that puts the athlete in the category of incorrigible. It could be that the student's cumulative attitude and behavior damage the chemistry of the team and the coach's ability to succeed. The decision to dismiss a student athlete will be determined jointly by the Director of Athletics and the coach.

**PARENT CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS:** We understand that parents play a vital role in the development of student athletes and the success of our program. Therefore, we expect the following:

- Teach them to be a part of something greater than themselves: teamwork teaches humility and makes life work... all players need to learn it.
- Do not coach your child. A very simple definition of each person's role puts it into perspective: Players=play, Coaches= coach, Parents= support, Officials= officiate. Make sure to play your role well and not someone else's role
- Cheer for all and don't speak negatively about your athlete, another student athlete or a coach.
- Be self-disciplined: sports are an emotional game. They can bring out the best in us and the worst in us if we are not careful.
- Let it be your child's experience. In order to do so, we must acknowledge that we cannot control the experience of our child... that is why it is an experience. When we experience something we will have good times and bad times, great moments and average plays, we will deal with victory and defeat... allow your child to experience these highs and lows in sport which will allow them to deal with the ups and downs of life... if we try to control the experience our child is not being prepared for life.
- Avoid sowing seeds of dissention. Resist the urge to talk to other parents or fans about your dissatisfaction. Everyone loves to have company in their misery, but no good ever comes from it.
- Encourage your athlete to talk to the coach when playing time questions exist. Avoid robbing your child of a wonderful opportunity to mature and develop communication skills of his/her own. *This will be a skill they will use in every area of life.*
- Support the coach even though you may not agree with every one of his/her decisions. Release your athlete to be coached and be part of a team.
- View the game with team goals in mind.
- Attempt to relieve pressure not increase it.
- Be an encourager- encourage athletes to keep their perspective in both victory and defeat.
- Be positive and supportive without adding undue pressure and unrealistic expectations.
- Do not make excuses. "The coach does not like me" is a familiar excuse... in the end, coaches like children that work hard, are coachable, have a great attitude, shows perseverance, are a good teammate, know how to deal with success and failure... teach your child to show the coach these attributes.
- Belief in and support of the coach's judgment, character, actions, strategy, and overall philosophy will help your child do the same. In contrast, criticism and constantly questioning a coach's actions and overall

program will likewise lead the student-athlete in that way. The attitudes and ideas communicated in the home will often be carried out in the heart and mind of the athlete.

**FAN/SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS:** To enhance a safe environment for all spectators and athletes, spectators are not permitted on the sidelines or on the courts before, during or after an athletic contest. Everyone associated with the athletic event plays an important role in seeing that standards of sportsmanship are upheld. The coaches, administrative liaisons, on-site manager, Director of Athletics, as well as the athletic department staff are responsible to see that spectators are kept off the sidelines and courts. Anyone who observes inappropriate behavior from our fans should address it personally and/or inform the on-site manager and/or Director of Athletics of such behavior.

- Demonstrate winning and losing with humility and grace. Demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Leave the referee out of it. They do not care which team wins. Their mistakes are honest ones. Never ridicule or shout criticism toward officials and referees.
- Be mindful of our witness to our children. Our behavior gives our children an implied permission to behave the same way. (Ephesians 4:29-32)
- Be mindful of our witness to unbelievers. Our words should witness to the world that we are His, as a star lights the darkness. (Colossians 4:5-6) (Philippians 2:14-16)
- Our attitudes and the way we choose to treat people are contagious. Let us take seriously the words of Jesus, and let us take seriously our duty to “watch ourselves”; our attitudes, words, and actions at sporting events either demonstrate the spirit of Christ or they do not.

**Note-** A parent’s/fan’s inability to consistently conduct themselves in an appropriate manner while at a LCA athletic event could jeopardize their future attendance at LCA events. A game official or school administrator has the authority to remove anyone from the confines of the athletic contest for unsportsmanlike behavior.

### **INFO FOR THE COLLEGE BOUND STUDENT ATHLETE**

At LCA, we have had many athletes who complete their competitive athletic participation when they graduate from high school. However, some have the desire, talent and opportunity to continue their participation at institutions of higher learning. To provide the best and most current information to athletes and families, LCA recommends visiting the NCAA website for those resources.





### **Lexington Christian Academy Parent Athletic Code of Conduct**

I hereby pledge positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in sports by following the rules and expectations set forth by the LCA Athletics Department. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, opponents, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other event. I understand that I represent my family, Lexington Christian Academy and most importantly Jesus, and I will bring glory to God in all words and actions.

#### **Inappropriate Conduct Subject to Discipline**

Examples of words or actions which could be subject to discipline:

1. Making physical contact with any player, coach, official, school representative or spectator.
2. Taunting, threatening or any other inappropriate communication with any player, coach, official, school representative or spectator.
3. Using profane or vulgar language or mannerisms.
4. Going into restricted areas such as locker rooms, field, court, dugout or other areas that are restricted to team access only.
5. Being involved in any activity that would warrant law enforcement.
6. Any other conduct that is not in compliance with Lexington Christian Academy's mission, values, or Statements of Faith.

#### **Penalties for Violation of Parent Code of Conduct**

**First Violation:** Parents will be issued a warning for behavior. Although not required, school officials can issue a suspension based upon the seriousness of the infraction.

**Second Violation:** Parents will be suspended from all athletic contests for a time period of no less than two games of the child's current season, including post season games. Parents must meet with administration personnel, the absence of which will result in an indefinite suspension from all athletic events.

**Third Violation:** Parents will be suspended for the remainder of the school year from all athletic events with the possibility of a required family re-interview for admission the following year.

**\*\*Please note-** School administration reserves the right to implement disciplinary measures that may exceed the standard penalties outlined in the code of conduct. **\*\***